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# HOUSE BILL No. 1531

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 9-19-22.

**Synopsis:** Concealed or hidden compartments in vehicles. Makes it a Class A misdemeanor for a person, with the intent to store, conceal, or transport contraband in a hidden or concealed compartment, to knowingly or intentionally possess, use, or control a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that has a hidden or concealed compartment. Makes it a Class D felony for a person to knowingly or intentionally facilitate the storage, concealment, or transportation of contraband by: (1) designing, constructing, building, altering, or fabricating a hidden or concealed compartment for a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer; (2) installing or creating a hidden or concealed compartment in a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer; or (3) attaching a hidden or concealed compartment to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer.

**Effective:** July 1, 2009.

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**Candelaria Reardon**

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January 16, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Courts and Criminal Code.

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First Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2009)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1531

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 9-19-22 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS  
2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
3 1, 2009]:

4 **Chapter 22. Concealed or Hidden Compartments**

5 **Sec. 1. (a)** As used in this chapter, "compartment" means a box,  
6 container, space, or enclosure that is:

7 (1) intended or designed to conceal, hide, or otherwise prevent  
8 the discovery of contraband; and

9 (2) within a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer or attached  
10 to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer.

11 **(b)** The term includes:

12 (1) a false, altered, or modified fuel tank;

13 (2) original factory equipment of a motor vehicle, trailer, or  
14 semitrailer that is modified, altered, or changed to  
15 accommodate or contain contraband; and

16 (3) a box, container, space, or enclosure that is fabricated,  
17 made, created from, or added to the existing structure of a

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motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "contraband" means any property, item, or substance that is unlawful to produce or possess under state or federal law.

Sec. 3. A person who, with the intent to store, conceal, or transport contraband in a compartment, knowingly or intentionally possesses, uses, or controls a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that has a compartment commits a Class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 4. A person who knowingly or intentionally facilitates the storage, concealment, or transportation of contraband by:

(1) designing, constructing, building, altering, or fabricating a compartment for a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer;

(2) installing or creating a compartment in a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer; or

(3) attaching a compartment to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer;

commits a Class D felony.

SECTION 2. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009] IC 9-19-22, as added by this act, applies only to crimes committed after June 30, 2009.

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